Reviewer's report

Title: Electrolytic Ablation Of The Rat Pancreas: A Feasibility Trial.

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Reviewer: Dr David Owen

Level of interest: A paper whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Advice on publication: Accept after revision, which I do not need to see

METHODS:
The grading system for the histology of the pancreatic lesions is adapted from a paper published by Sporman et al (ref 14). More details of this system should be provided so that a reader does not have to refer to the original article which was published in 1989.

RESULTS:
A more detailed description of the gross appearances of the pancreatic lesions would be interesting. Specifically, size and size range, color, texture and circumscription could be documented. If possible an illustration of the histology of the necrotic lesions should be provided. Failing this a more complete description should be available.

DISCUSSION:
The lesions produced in these rats were small. Pancreatic tumors in humans are large. The authors may care to add a paragraph here detailing their experience with large hepatic tumors to show how the technique can accommodate this size of lesion.

FIGURES:
Figure 3 should ideally contain a size marker. Figure 4 is missing a notation on the y axis and possibly also a footnote to indicate that this graph relates current to tissue damage. Note that it is possible to interpret this graph as indicating that damage is maximal at 6 coulomb and that greater amounts of power actually produce less damage!

Competing interests:

None declared.